

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Energy Working Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday February 26, 2009**

**Rockville City Hall – Blue Crab Room**

**7:00 pm**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Seth Adams. In attendance: Seth Adams, Steve Cardon, Christine Davidson-McCord, Dominique Lorang-Leins, Dunstan Macauley, Tolulope Odunlami, Priya Premchandran and staff liaison Nate Wall.

Priya asked if this time could also be used to provide a brief summary of the last full Environment Commission meeting to the group

#### **2. Working Group Administration Details**

It was confirmed by the group that the monthly meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7pm. Nate has posted a complete list of EWG meeting dates on the group's new webpage: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/commissions/ec/ewg/>

Working group meeting locations may change from month to month. Nate mentioned that the only restrictions on meeting location is that they must be held at a public facility, as members of the public are always invited to attend all meetings. Meeting location will always be posted on the top of the agenda for the meeting, which should ideally be released a week before the meeting.

#### **3. Rothgeb Drive Maintenance Complex Improvements**

Nate presented the working group with a copy of a memo dated Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> from the Environmental Management Division to the City Manager, Director of Recreation & Parks (in charge of new facilities) and the Director of Public Works concerning green building recommendations for the Rothgeb Drive Maintenance Complex. Attached to this memo and referenced by it was the Environment Commission / EWG's recommendations.

The working group asked about the next steps for this project, and how to stay involved. Nate will try to set up a joint meeting with the Rec & Parks Advisory Board to get a presentation from the design group, and a Q&A on the anticipated green features.

#### **4. Green Building Program Update**

Nate explained that instead of having a stand-alone "green building ordinance", the City of Rockville was embedding green building concepts into a total update of its entire building code (Chapter 5 of the City Code). This is nearly ready for public comment, waiting for a signoff from Inspection Services Division (whom ultimately inspects and improves the

building code). Nate hopes to reach agreement with ISD by mid-March. He will then send out each article of the new building code for EWG review, and our March meeting will focus mainly on the discussion of two or three of the main articles. After EWG review, the City plans to hold several facilitated public meetings.

## **5. Rockville Sustainability Strategy**

This topic has been tabled until after the green building program draft has been reviewed and put out for public comment.

Nate mentioned that the City of Baltimore recently released a Sustainability Strategy that Rockville could review for ideas for the next update of our own strategy:

[http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/sustainability/downloads/0209/020409\\_Baltimore\\_Sustainability\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/sustainability/downloads/0209/020409_Baltimore_Sustainability_Plan.pdf)

## **6. Staff Updates**

Montgomery County Climate Protection Plan: In January, Montgomery County released a very comprehensive “Climate Protection Plan”, the scope of which is so broad it almost acts like a County Sustainability Strategy. That Plan can be found here:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/Sustainability/2009mococlimprotplan.pdf>

There are several interesting components that this group may be interested – particularly chapter 3 (Renewable Energy), chapter 4 (Residential Building Energy Efficiency) and Chapter 5 (Commercial, Multi-Family and Public Building Energy Efficiency).

Home Energy Loan Program (HELP): In particular, Nate wanted to call attention to the proposed Home Energy Loan Program from the Climate Action Plan. The unique aspect of this plan is that zero-interest loans from the County for energy audits and energy improvements to your home would be repaid from an additional line item on the property tax. Thus, if you sell your home two years after say, installing solar panels, the loan stays with the house. Nate thinks this type of approach has the possibility of breaking down a major barrier in reaching the existing homes market in terms of making homes more energy efficient. Nate will keep the working group posted on further developments with this program.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Nate mentioned that a recent Environmental Management intern, Kindra Lopez, had done a spectacular job of pulling together the City’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory for years 2005 (baseline), 2006, 2007 and 2008 (all by calendar year). However, the day before she left the City for a permanent position, the software used for the inventory imploded. That data themselves were not lost; however, some debugging will have to occur before any reports can be made. Nate hopes to be able to do this after the green building program has been released.

## **7. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

No news to report.

## **8. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next meeting of the working group will be held Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.